United Nations A/53/610

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 December 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 95

Operational activities for development

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Uladzimir **Gerus** (Belarus)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled: "Operational activities for development" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 12th to 15th, 17th, 19th, 36th and 42nd meetings, from 14 to 16 and on 20 and 21 October, 10 November and 1 December 1998. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/53/SR.12–15, 17, 19, 36 and 42). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 7th meetings, on 6, 8 and 9 October (see A/C.2/53/SR.3–7).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of the World Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children (A/53/186);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/53/226 and Add.1–4);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Fellowships in the United Nations system" (A/53/154) and the comments thereon of the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (A/53/154/Add.1);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/53/363);

98-38102 (E) 071298

(e) Letter dated 9 March 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Japan and Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Co-Chairmen's summary report on the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held at Dakar on 2 and 3 March 1998 (A/53/85);

(f) Letter dated 27 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Tokyo Agenda for Action adopted at the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held at Tokyo from 19 to 21 October 1998 (A/53/559).

4. At the 12th meeting, on 14 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund, the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme, the Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and an Inspector from the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/C.2/53/SR.12).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.8 and A/C.2/53/L.56

5. At the 17th meeting, on 20 October, the representative of *Indonesia*, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and *China*, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (A/C.2/53/L.8), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 50/120 of 20 December 1995 and 52/203 of 18 December 1997, as well as other relevant resolutions,

"*Reaffirming* that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have a critical and unique role to play in enabling developing countries to continue to take a leading role in the management of their own development process,

"*Stressing* that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for the national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system and that programmes should be based on such development plans and priorities and should therefore be country-driven,

"*Bearing in mind* that the effectiveness of operational activities should be measured by their impact on the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of developing countries,

"*Stressing*, in that context, the need to take into account the outcomes and commitments of relevant United Nations conferences, as well as the individual mandates and complementarities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication,

"*Stressing also* that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, *inter alia*, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond

to the needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benef.t of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

"*Recognizing* the urgent and specific needs of the low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

"2. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 47/199 and 50/120, and stresses the need to implement fully all the elements of those resolutions in a coherent manner, keeping in mind their interlinkages;

"3. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/42 of 31 July 1998 on overall guidance on operational activities for development to the United Nations funds and programmes;

"4. *Stresses* that the needs and priorities of recipient countries require increasing the flexibility and decentralization of operational activities to the country level;

"5. *Notes with regret* that, although significant progress has already been made on the restructuring and rationalization of the governance and functioning of the United Nations development funds and programmes, there has not been, as part of the overall reform process, any increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis;

"6. *Strongly reaffirms* that the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the operational activities of the United Nations system must be enhanced by, *inter alia*, a substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, as well as through the full implementation of resolutions 47/199, 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/120;

"7. *Notes* the urgency of a productive outcome of the continuing discussions in the context of the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to reverse the declining trend in core resources and to put the funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis commensurate with the needs of the developing countries, and, in this context, invites the Economic and Social Council to review the overall financial picture of the funds and programmes annually, in accordance with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996;

"8. *Urges* developed countries, in particular those countries whose overall performance is not commensurate with their capacity, taking into account established official development assistance targets, including targets established at the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries and their current levels of contribution, to increase substantially their official development assistance, including contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system;

"9. *Notes with appreciation* the sustained contributions of many donors and recipient countries to the operational activities for development in a spirit of partnership;

"10. *Expresses serious concern* at the persistent insufficiency of resources for the operational development activities of the United Nations, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources, and the need to urgently reverse this trend;

"11. *Reaffirms* the need for priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries;

"12. *Emphasizes* that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process;

"13. *Stresses* that the reform of the United Nations should respect the distinct mandates of the separate sectoral and specialized entities, funds, programmes and specialized agencies, taking into account their complementarities;

"14. *Emphasizes* that the pilot phase of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework should promote a country-driven, coherent response by the United Nations system to achieve greater impact at the country level, in conformity with and in support of national priorities as expressed in the country strategy notes or relevant national development plans, as appropriate;

"15. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring full Government participation in and full ownership of the formulation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and its approval by the recipient Government concerned, bearing in mind that the responsibility for coordination of all assistance and developmental activities rest with the national government;

"16. *Notes* that the country strategy note remains a voluntary initiative and that where it does not exist, other similar frameworks reflecting national priorities should be used as the basis for the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, to ensure that Framework fully responds to the priorities and needs of the Government;

"17. *Stresses* the growing need for incorporating the regional and subregional dimension, as appropriate, in the United Nations operational activities for development, and encourages the resident coordinators, in close consultation with Governments, to secure greater involvement of the regional commissions in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate;

"18. *Urges* the United Nations Development Group to work in a fully transparent and accountable manner towards a more coherent United Nations performance in the development field, while respecting the specific mandates and identities of its members under the coordination of government;

"19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the resident coordinator system more participatory in its functioning at the field level by, *inter alia*, making greater use of thematic groups and adopting a more consultative approach within the United Nations system;

"20. *Notes* the improvements in the functioning of the resident coordinator system, and encourages further progress, in close consultation with national Governments, by continuing to broaden the base of recruitment of resident coordinators and improving selection criteria and procedures, including through the use of competency assessment and training and by ensuring that the resident

coordinators take fully into account the mandates of all organizations of the United Nations development system;

"21. *Invites* the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and the Secretariat, to provide, as appropriate, support to the resident coordinator system;

"22. *Reaffirms* that resident coordinators, in full consultation with national Governments, should facilitate a coherent and coordinated United Nations follow-up to major international conferences at the field level;

"23. *Stresses* that the resident coordinator system, where requested by host Governments, use the field level committee and thematic working groups to promote better integration of the United Nations operational activities in national development efforts;

"24. *Notes* the current initiatives in pursuing common premises, including by taking cost-benefit studies as called for by relevant resolutions, and encourages further implementation of such initiatives, where appropriate, while ensuring that there will be no additional burden on host countries;

"25. *Calls for* further simplification and harmonization of the rules of procedure used by the United Nations development system in its operational activities, in particular by the promotion of greater consistency in the presentation of budgets at the headquarters level, as well as in the sharing of administrative systems and services, the rationalization of existing procedures in the field, where possible, and in the development of common databases, in consultation with national Governments;

"26. *Decides* that the objective of capacity-building and its sustainability should continue to be an essential part of the operational activities of the United Nations system at the country level, with the aim of integrating activities and providing support to efforts to strengthen national capacities in the fields of, *inter alia*, policy and programme formulation, development management, planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring and review;

"27. *Also decides* that, where Governments so desire, the United Nations system should be ready to engage in providing an enabling environment to strengthen the capacity of civil societies and national non-governmental organizations involved in development activities, in accordance with national policies and priorities;

"28. *Further decides* that the United Nations system should use, to the fullest extent possible, available national expertise and endogenous technologies in the implementation of operational activities;

"29. *Calls for* further work on the development of common guidelines at the field level for the recruitment, training and remuneration of national project personnel, including national consultants, in the formulation and implementation of development projects and programmes supported by the United Nations development system to enhance the coherence of the system;

"30. *Notes* the report on pilot evaluation conducted on the impact of operational activities and the need for full and effective involvement of the recipient Governments concerned in the process of such evaluation, and decides that the United Nations development system should continue to work on promoting the operationalization of capacity-building concepts, as well as on ways of enhancing the sustainability of capacity-building, including through country programming frameworks;

"31. *Also notes* that capacity-building should be explicitly articulated as a goal of all technical assistance provided by the United Nations system and should be conceived of not only as human resources training, but also to include the development of individual organizations and the improvement of the environment in which they operate;

"32. *Decides* that the members of the United Nations Development Group should continue to work on promoting and expanding national execution, including through the simplification of relevant procedures so as to contribute to the advancement of national ownership;

"33. *Requests* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to undertake efforts in the context of national execution and capacity-building to enhance the absorptive capacity in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries and Africa, and to assist similar efforts undertaken by those countries;

"34. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation (economic cooperation among developing countries/technical cooperation among developing countries) offers viable opportunities for the development of developing countries, and invites all United Nations entities to mainstream economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in their development activities, *inter alia*, through increased allocation of resources from their regular budgets and through incorporating economic and technical cooperation among developing countries modalities into United Nations development projects whenever possible;

"35. *Notes* with satisfaction the broad-based support for technical cooperation among developing countries expressed by member States at the twentieth anniversary commemoration of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

"36. *Welcomes* the proposal on a United Nations day for South-South cooperation, as well as the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the integration of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in the operational activities of the United Nations (A/53/226/Add.4) and his report on the revised guidelines on technical cooperation among developing countries (E/1997/110);

"37. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme, in this context, to substantially increase the allocation of core resources to enable the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to carry out the General Assembly mandates in promoting technical cooperation among developing countries without affecting the allocation of resources for national programmes;

"38. *Urges* all funds and programmes to increase the procurement of goods and services from developing countries, both as a mechanism for promoting South-South cooperation and enhancing national execution;

"39. *Emphasizes* the importance of disseminating the experience of effective and efficient cooperation within the United Nations development system, and urges the United Nations system to give support to such activities, *inter alia*, through interregional projects for technical cooperation;

"40. *Recognizes* that the monitoring and evaluation process of operational activities, including joint evaluations, should continue to be nationally led, and that the United Nations system should therefore support, where requested by Governments, the strengthening of national evaluation capacities;

"41. *Emphasizes* that further steps need to be taken to evaluate the results and impact of the operational activities for development, in consultation with Governments, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of operational activities;

"42. *Recognizes*, in that context, the need to strengthen capacities of the recipient countries to perform both effective programme, project and financial monitoring and impact evaluations of operational activities funded by the United Nations;

"43. *Underlines* the importance of promoting, under the leadership of Governments, greater collaboration on issues relating to evaluation among recipient Governments, the United Nations Development Group and relevant development partners at the country level;

"44. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations development system to ensure gender balance when making appointments, including at the senior level and in the field, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

"45. *Stresses* the need for gender mainstreaming in operational activities of the United Nations system, in particular in support of poverty eradication and in ensuring availability of funding sources for such programmes;

"46. *Also stresses* the important role of the Economic and Social Council in ensuring coordination of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including through overall guidance for that purpose to all funds and programmes;

"47. *Notes* that the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes should ensure that the heads of these funds and programmes include in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1994/33, a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform programme, the triennial policy review and the follow-up to the conferences, so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role;

"48. *Requests* the Secretary-General to pursue his initiative to strengthen the coordination arrangements at the regional level in pursuance of the measures outlined in annex III, part B of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, and, in that context, encourages the regional commissions to exercise a team leadership role, in particular by promoting inter-agency cooperative relationships at the regional level;

"49. *Encourages* greater cooperation between World Bank and all funds and programmes, with a view to increased complementarity and better cooperation in their activities, building on the existing arrangements and fully in accordance with the priorities of the recipient Government;

"50. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, in implementing the present resolution, to bear in mind the specific requirements of the continuum from humanitarian assistance through rehabilitation to development, while ensuring that scarce resources for development are not diverted to humanitarian assistance and that sufficient additional resources for humanitarian assistance are made available by the international community;

"51. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consultations with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to present a report

to the General Assembly for its consideration at its fifty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999, on an appropriate management process, containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time-frames for the full implementation of the present resolution;

"52. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council, during the operational activities segment of its substantive sessions of 1999 and 2000, to examine the operational activities of the United Nations system with a view to ensuring the full implementation of the present resolution;

"53. *Reaffirms* that the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system should take appropriate action for the full implementation of the present resolution, and requests the executive heads of those funds, programmes and specialized agencies, bearing in mind paragraph 41 above, to submit a yearly progress report to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as appropriate recommendations;

"54. *Decides*, as an integral part of the next comprehensive triennial policy review, in consultation with Member States, to conduct an evaluation of the impact of the pilot phase of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in the field of operational activities, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report containing information on progress in that regard to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly for its consideration through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999;

"55. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations."

6. At the 42nd meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, David Prendergast (Jamaica), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (A/C.2/53/L.56), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.8, and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In the first preambular paragraph, the words "Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/26 of 28 July 1998" were replaced with the words "Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/42 of 26 July 1996 and 1998/26 of 28 July 1998";

(b) In operative paragraph 16, the words "*inter alia*" were inserted before the words "the decisions adopted recently by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund";

(c) In operative paragraph 25, the words "in particular" before the words "through the United Nations Development Group" were replaced with the word "including", and the word "by" was deleted before the words "increasing the number of women resident coordinators";

(d) Operative paragraph 34, which had read:

"34. *Emphasizes* the need to implement the outcome of the major United Nations conferences through the commitment and targets agreed at these conferences, and in this context stresses the importance to accelerate efforts for the coordinated follow-up of major conferences, welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/290, in which the Council decided on a step-by-step basis an intergovernmental

process on relevant indicators to monitor the implementation of conference outcomes at all levels, and welcomes the decision to hold an informal Council meeting on this issue in 1999",

was replaced with the following text:

"34. *Emphasizes* the need to implement the outcome of the major United Nations conferences through fulfilling the commitments and targets agreed at those conferences, and in this context stresses the importance to accelerate efforts for the coordinated follow-up of major United Nations conferences, and in this context welcomes Economic and Social Council decision 1998/290 of 31 July 1998, in which the Council decided on a step-by-step basis an intergovernmental process on relevant indicators to monitor the implementation of conference outcomes at all levels, and welcomes in this context also the decision to hold an informal Council meeting on this issue in 1999".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.56, as orally revised (see para. 13, draft resolution I).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.56, draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.8 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.9

9. At the 19th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of *Sweden* introduced a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 to review the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children" (A/C.2/53/L.9).

10. At the 36th meeting, on 10 November, the Vice-President of the Committee, David Prendergast (Jamaica), informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.9 (see para. 13, draft resolution II).

C. Draft decision

12. At its 42nd meeting, on 1 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/53/226 and Add. 1–4), the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Fellowships in the United Nations system" (A/53/154) and the comments thereon of the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (A/53/154/Add.1), and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/53/363) (see para. 14).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 52/203 of 18 December 1997, and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, and taking into account the views of Member States, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/42 of 26 July 1996 and 1998/26 of 28 July 1998,

Reaffirming that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have an important role to play in enabling developing countries to continue to take a lead role in the management of their own development process,

Stressing that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for the national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system, and that programmes should be based on such development plans and priorities and should therefore be country-driven,

Also stressing, in that context, the need to take into account the outcomes and commitments of relevant United Nations conferences, as well as the individual mandates and complementarities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication,

Further stressing that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, *inter alia*, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Noting, in this context, the activities of United Nations funds and programmes aimed at providing technical assistance to recipient countries, in response to their national economic and social needs and priorities, including poverty eradication, promotion of all human rights, including the right to development, for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, and stressing the need for these activities to be undertaken at the request of interested recipient Governments strictly within the respective mandates of United Nations funds and programmes, which should receive increased contributions from donor countries,

Recognizing the urgent and specific needs of the low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Emphasizing that developing countries are responsible for their development processes, and in this context stressing the responsibility of the international community, in partnership, to assist developing countries in their national development efforts,

Recalling also the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that policies formulated by the General Assembly, particularly during the triennial policy review of operational activities, are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 47/199, 50/120, and parts relevant to operational activities for development of its resolution 52/12 B, and stresses the need to implement fully, based on lessons learned, all the elements of these resolutions in a coherent and timely manner, keeping in mind their interlinkages;

3. *Emphasizes also* that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process;

4. *Notes* the efforts made in order to rationalize and improve the function and impact of the United Nations funds and programmes;

I.A

Reform of United Nations operational activities

5. *Stresses* the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system to focus their efforts at the field level on priority areas, in accordance with the priorities identified by recipient countries and the mandates, mission statements and relevant decisions of their governing bodies, in order to avoid duplication and enhance the complementarity and impact of their work;

6. *Further stresses* that, in the context of the reform of the United Nations Secretariat and the restructuring and revitalization of the intergovernmental process, the mandates of the separate sectoral and specialized entities, funds, programmes and specialized agencies should be respected and enhanced, taking into account their complementarities;

I.B

Funding for United Nations operational activities

7. *Notes with regret* that although significant progress has already been achieved on the governance and functioning of the United Nations development funds and programmes, there has not been, as part of this overall change process, any increase in core resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis;

8. *Expresses serious concern* at the persistent insufficiency of resources for the operational development activities of the United Nations, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources;

9. *Reaffirms* the need for priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries;

[1] A/53/226 and Add.1–4.

10. *Strongly reaffirms* that the impact of the operational activities of the United Nations system must be enhanced by, *inter alia*, a substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, as well as through the full implementation of its resolutions 47/199, 48/162, 50/120 and parts relevant to operational activities for development of its resolution 52/12 B;

11. *Stresses* the need for a continuous overall improvement in the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the United Nations system in delivering its development assistance, and welcomes steps that have been taken towards that end;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the sustained contributions of many donors and recipient countries to operational activities for development in a spirit of partnership;

13. *Urges* developed countries, in particular those countries whose overall performance is not commensurate with their capacity, taking into account established official development assistance targets, including targets established at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and their current levels of contribution, to increase substantially their official development assistance, including contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system;

14. *Stresses* that other countries that are in a position to do so should strive to augment their assistance in the framework of development cooperation;

15. *Notes* the importance of non-core resources, including cost-sharing, trust funds and non-traditional sources of financing, as a mechanism to enhance the capacity and to supplement the means of operational activities for development;

16. *Notes* the discussions on funding strategies in the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, including, *inter alia*, the decisions adopted recently by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund as part of ongoing efforts by Member States to reverse the declining trend in core resources and to put funding for United Nations development activities on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the needs of the developing countries, and in this context urges the expeditious and productive outcome of these and other executive board discussions, and invites the Economic and Social Council to consider, on an annual basis, the overall financial picture of the funds and programmes;

I.C

United Nations Development Assistance Framework

17. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which is currently in a pilot phase, should promote a country-driven, collaborative and coherent response by the United Nations system to achieve greater impact at the country level, fully consistent with and in support of national priorities as expressed in the country strategy notes or relevant national development plans, as appropriate;

18. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring full government participation in the formulation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and its full ownership through the agreement of the recipient Governments concerned to the finalized Framework, bearing in mind that the responsibility for coordination of all assistance and developmental activities rests with the national Government;

19. *Stresses also* the need to ensure the full and active participation of the funds and programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

20. *Notes* the importance of closer consultation in the formulation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework between national Governments, relevant United Nations development agencies, including specialized agencies, and other relevant development partners;

21. *Notes* that the country strategy note remains a voluntary initiative and that where it does not exist, other similar frameworks reflecting national priorities should be used as the basis for the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, to ensure that the Framework fully responds to national development priorities and needs;

22. *Notes* the role that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework should play to facilitate, *inter alia*, the United Nations contribution to the coordinated follow-up of the major United Nations conferences at the field level, and the importance of the common country assessment for the effective formulation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

I.D

Resident coordinator system

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to make the resident coordinator system more participatory in its functioning at the field level by, *inter alia*, making greater use of thematic groups and adopting a more consultative approach within the United Nations system;

24. *Notes* the improvements in the functioning of the resident coordinator system, and encourages further progress, in close consultation with national Governments;

25. *Encourages* further efforts, including through the United Nations Development Group, to further improve the resident coordinator system, and welcomes the efforts to continue to broaden the base of recruitment of resident coordinators, increasing the number of women resident coordinators, and improving its selection criteria and procedures, including through the use of competency assessment and training and by ensuring that the resident coordinators take fully into account the mandates of all organizations of the resident coordinator system;

26. *Reaffirms* that resident coordinators, in full consultation with national Governments, should facilitate a coherent and coordinated United Nations follow-up to major international conferences at the field level;

27. *Requests* the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, specialized agencies and the Secretariat, to provide support to the resident coordinator system;

I.E

United Nations Development Group

28. *Urges* the United Nations Development Group to work in a fully transparent and accountable manner towards a more coherent United Nations performance in the development field, while respecting the specific mandates and identity of its members;

II.A

Planning, programming and implementation

29. *Stresses* that the needs and priorities of recipient countries require flexibility and decentralization of operational activities to the country level, as well as the continued application of these measures to further enhance programme responsiveness and impact;

30. *Decides* that with the agreement of the host country, the United Nations development system should assist national Governments in creating an enabling environment in which the links between national Governments, the United Nations development system, civil society, national non-governmental organizations and the private sector that are involved in the development process are strengthened with a view to seeking new and innovative solutions to development problems in accordance with national policies and priorities;

31. *Calls* for the further simplification, harmonization and rationalization of procedures for operational activities of the United Nations development system at the field level, where possible, and developing common databases, in consultation with national Governments;

32. *Urges* the funds and programmes to put in place specific measures and timetables to advance the simplification and harmonization of procedures, and to report on these to their respective governing bodies;

33. *Also calls* for the United Nations development system to promote greater consistency in the presentation of budgets at the headquarters level, and, at the field level, the sharing of administrative systems and services;

34. *Emphasizes* the need to implement the outcome of the major United Nations conferences through fulfilling the commitments and targets agreed at those conferences, and in this context stresses the importance to accelerate efforts for the coordinated follow-up of major United Nations conferences, and in this context welcomes Economic and Social Council decision 1998/290 of 31 July 1998, in which the Council decided on a step-by-step basis an intergovernmental process on relevant indicators to monitor the implementation of conference outcomes at all levels, and in this context also welcomes the decision to hold an informal Council meeting on this issue in 1999;

35. *Encourages* greater cooperation between the World Bank, regional development banks and all funds and programmes with a view to increased complementarity and better division of labour, as well as enhanced coherence in their sectoral activities, building on the existing arrangements and fully in accordance with the priorities of the recipient Government;

36. *Notes* the current initiatives in pursuing common premises and the need to take fully into account cost-benefit studies as called for by relevant resolutions, and encourages further implementation of such initiatives, where appropriate, while ensuring that there will be no additional burden imposed on host countries;

II.B

Capacity-building

37. *Reaffirms* that capacity-building and its sustainability should be explicitly articulated as a goal of technical assistance provided by the operational activities of the United Nations system at the country level, with the aim of strengthening national capacities

in the fields of, *inter alia*, policy and programme formulation, development management, planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring and review;

II.C

Humanitarian assistance

38. *Expresses* concern at the growing number of natural disasters and environmental emergencies which often strike countries that lack the resources to cope with them adequately;

39. *Recognizes* that the phases of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development are generally not consecutive but often overlap and occur simultaneously, and notes the urgent need to develop, through a strategic framework, when appropriate, a comprehensive approach to countries in crisis, and that the development of such a comprehensive approach must involve national authorities, as well as the United Nations system, donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and that national authorities must take a leading role in all aspects of the recovery plan, and also notes in this context the need for an early application of developmental tools in humanitarian emergencies, and takes note with appreciation of the recommendations included in the report of the Secretary-General in this regard;

40. *Stresses* that contributions to humanitarian assistance should not be provided at the expense of development assistance, and that sufficient resources for humanitarian assistance should be made available by the international community;

II.D

Regional dimension

41. *Stresses* the growing need for incorporating the regional and subregional dimension in United Nations operational activities for development, and encourages the resident coordinators, in close consultation with Governments, to secure greater involvement of the regional commissions, taking into account their agreed mandates and work programmes, in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate;

II.E

Cross-cutting themes

II.E.1

South-South cooperation/technical and economic cooperation among developing countries

42. *Requests* the United Nations system to take appropriate measures to improve the effective incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes and projects, and to intensify efforts towards mainstreaming the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries, including through support to the activities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and encourages other relevant international institutions to undertake similar measures;

43. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, offers viable opportunities for the development of developing countries, and in this context requests the executive boards of the funds and

programmes to review, with a view to considering an increase, the allocation of resources for technical cooperation among developing countries activities;

44. *Notes* with satisfaction the broad-based support for technical cooperation among developing countries expressed by Member States at the twentieth anniversary commemoration of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;[2]

45. *Takes note with appreciation* of the recommendations on strengthening the integration of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

II.E.2

Gender

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations development system to take all measures to ensure gender balance when making appointments, including at the senior level and in the field, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

47. *Stresses* the need for gender mainstreaming in operational activities of the United Nations system in all fields, in particular in support of poverty eradication;

II.E.3

National execution

48. *Further decides* that the United Nations system should use to the fullest extent possible and practicable available national expertise and indigenous technologies in the implementation of operational activities;

49. *Calls upon* all funds and programmes to consider ways to increase, within existing rules and regulations, the procurement of goods and services from developing countries, both as a mechanism to promote South-South cooperation and for enhancing national execution;

50. *Calls* for further work on the development of common guidelines at the field level for the recruitment, training and remuneration of national project personnel, including national consultants, in the formulation and implementation of development projects and programmes supported by the United Nations development system in order to enhance the coherence of the system;

51. *Requests* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to work on promoting, improving and expanding national execution, including through the simplification and strengthening of relevant procedures, so as to contribute to the advancement of national ownership and to enhance the absorptive capacity in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries in Africa;

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August–12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

III

Monitoring and evaluation

52. *Recognizes* that the monitoring and evaluation process of operational activities, including joint evaluations, should be impartial and independent, under the overall leadership of the Government;

53. *Notes* the report on pilot evaluation conducted on the impact of operational activities and the need to continue these evaluations with the full and effective involvement of the recipient Government concerned in the process of such evaluation;

54. *Emphasizes* the importance of disseminating the experience of effective and efficient cooperation within the United Nations development system;

55. *Underlines* the importance of promoting, under the leadership of Governments, greater collaboration on issues relating to evaluation among recipient Governments, the United Nations development system, in particular the members of the United Nations Development Group, and relevant development partners at the country level;

56. *Recognizes*, in that context, the need to strengthen capacities of the recipient countries to perform both effective programme, project and financial monitoring and impact evaluations of operational activities funded by the United Nations;

57. *Further requests* that the United Nations system strengthen its efforts, in consultation with recipient countries, to ensure that the lessons learned from both monitoring and evaluation exercises are systematically applied into programming processes at the operational level and that evaluation criteria are built into all projects and programmes at their design stage;

IV

Follow-up

58. *Reaffirms* that the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system should take appropriate action for the full implementation of the present resolution, and requests the executive heads of those funds, programmes and specialized agencies to submit a yearly progress report to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as appropriate recommendations;

59. *Invites* the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that the heads of these funds and programmes include in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1994/33 of 28 July 1994, a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform programme, the triennial policy review and the follow-up to international conferences, so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role;

60. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consultation with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to present a progress report to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1999, on an appropriate management process, containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time-frames for the full implementation of the present resolution;

61. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council, during the operational activities segment of its substantive sessions of 1999 and 2000, to examine the operational activities

of the United Nations system in order to evaluate the implementation of the present resolution with a view to ensuring its full implementation;

62. *Further invites* the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1999, to consider, *inter alia*, the issues of poverty eradication and capacity-building, and at its substantive session of 2000, to consider, *inter alia*, harmonization and simplification, including of programming, and resources, on the basis of progress reports by the Secretary-General, including appropriate recommendations;

63. *Decides*, as an integral part of the next triennial policy review of operational activities, in consultation with Member States, to conduct an evaluation of the impact of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in the field of operational activities, and requests the Secretary-General to report, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001, on the results of such an evaluation, including lessons learned and recommendations made, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, and also requests the Secretary-General to report annually to the Economic and Social Council on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

64. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.

Draft resolution II

Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 to review the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/186 of 16 December 1996,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on progress on the implementation of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children;[3]

2. *Decides* to postpone to its fifty-fourth session consideration of the arrangements for the special session of the General Assembly in 2001 to review the achievement of the goals of the Summit.

* * *

14. The Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents relating to operational activities for development

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;[4]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Fellowships in the United Nations system";[5]

[3] A/53/186.
[4] A/53/226.
[5] A/53/154.

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Fellowships in the United Nations system";[6]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.[7]

---

[6] A/53/154/Add.1.

[7] A/53/363.

United Nations A/53/611

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 November 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 96

Training and research

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Uladzimir **Gerus** (Belarus)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled:

"Training and research:

"(a) United Nations University;

"(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 26th, 33rd, 34th, 36th, 39th and 40th meetings, on 28 October and 3, 4, 10, 16 and 24 November 1998. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/53/SR.26, 33, 34, 36, 39 and 40). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 7th meetings, on 6, 8 and 9 October (see A/C.2/53/SR.3–7).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 96 (a) United Nations University

Report of the Council of the United Nations University[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations University (A/53/408)

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 31* (A/53/31).

98-37326 (E) 021298

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University (A/53/392)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting to the members of the General Assembly his comments to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University (A/53/392/Add.1)

Item 96 (b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research[2]

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/53/534)

4. At the 26th meeting, on 28 October, the Rector of the United Nations University made an introductory statement. The representative of the Joint Inspection Unit also made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/53/SR.26).

5. At the 34th meeting, on 4 November, introductory statements were made by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research as well as by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute (see A/C.2/53/SR.34).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.24 and Rev.1

6. At the 33rd meeting, on 3 November, the representative of *Japan*, on behalf of *Algeria, Australia, Benin, Brazil, Ethiopia, Iceland, Japan, Jordan, Lesotho,* the *Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Nicaragua, Peru, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Thailand* and *the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,* and *Turkmenistan,* introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations University" (A/C.2/53/L.24), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

"*Welcoming* the appointment of Mr. Hans van Ginkel by the Secretary-General in September 1997 as the fourth Rector of the United Nations University,

"*Having considered* the report of the Council of the United Nations University,[3] the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations University,[4] the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University[5] and the comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University,[6]

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* for the voluntary contributions made to date by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 14* (A/53/14).

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 31* (A/53/31).

[4] A/53/408.

[5] See A/53/392.

[6] See A/53/392/Add.1.

"*Noting with appreciation* the efforts made by the Rector of the United Nations University in intensifying his interaction with United Nations Headquarters in the context of the development and implementation of a University-wide strategic plan which would help the University determine an overall strategic direction for the future,

"*Noting also with appreciation* the efforts made by the Rector in initiating a self-assessment of the University,

"1. *Welcomes* the completion of the review of the United Nations University carried out by the Joint Inspection Unit and the internal assessment conducted by the Ad Hoc Committee of the University's Governing Council;

"2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the steps taken by the Council and the Rector of the United Nations University to promote the work and the visibility of the University, particularly among Member States, the United Nations and its agencies, through such measures as organizing a series of public forums for the purpose of disseminating the results of its research, and requests them to further intensify such efforts;

"3. *Requests* the Council and the Rector to continue intensifying their efforts to improve the University's interaction and communication with other bodies of the United Nations system and to continue their efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication of work within the system;

"4. *Also requests* the Council and the Rector to enhance further coordination and complementarity between the University's research and training centres and its programmes;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this connection, to continue his consideration of innovative measures to improve the interaction and communication between the University and other bodies of the United Nations system and to ensure the integration of the work of the University into all relevant activities of the system, taking into account General Assembly resolution 51/187 of 16 December 1996, so that the United Nations system may draw more extensively upon the work of the University, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

"6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the further participation of the University in the work of the United Nations, and requests him, taking into account resolution 51/187, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the further participation of the University in the activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary machinery, as well as through other existing structures and modalities for communication, interaction and synergy;

"7. *Requests* the Council and the Rector, taking into account resolution 51/187, to continue to make further efforts to ensure the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the activities of the University, as well as its financial transparency and accountability, and to intensify efforts to augment its Endowment Fund and to find innovative ways to mobilize operating contributions and other programme and project support;

"8. *Appeals* to the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University, in particular to the Endowment Fund."

7. At the 39th meeting, on 16 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Burak Özügergin (Turkey), informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution and drew the Committee's attention to a revised draft resolution entitled "United Nations University" (A/C.2/53/L.24/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.24 and *Austria* (on behalf of the States Members

of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), *Azerbaijan, Chile, Cyprus, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco,* the *Republic of Moldova, Romania* and *Tunisia* (see A/C.2/53/SR.39).

8. Also at the 39th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.24/Rev.1 (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.32 and A/C.2/53/L.44

9. At the 36th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of *Indonesia,* on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and *China,* introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/53/L.32), which read:

"*The General Assembly,*

"*Recalling* its resolutions 47/227 of 8 April 1993, 48/207 of 21 December 1993, 49/125 of 19 December 1994, 50/121 of 20 December 1995, 51/188 of 16 December 1996 and 52/206 of 18 December 1997,

"*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General[7] and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the activities of the Institute,[8]

"*Welcoming* the successful restructuring of the Institute and the recent progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

"*Underlining* the need for all the United Nations training and research institutions to avoid duplication in their work,

"*Expressing its appreciation* to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

"*Noting* that in certain cases contributions to the General Fund have not been commensurate with the increased participation of the developed countries in the training programmes, and underlining the need to urgently address this discrepancy,

"*Reiterating* that the funding of training programmes offered at the specific request of States or departments and units of the Organization and other organs of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies should be arranged by the requesting parties,

"*Recognizing* that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

"1. *Takes notes* of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director;

"2. *Reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations

[7] A/53/534.

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 14* (A/53/14).

and the training requirements of States and the pertinence of research activities related to training undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

"3. *Stresses* the need for the Institute to further strengthen its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

"4. *Also stresses* the need for continuity in the management of the Institute in order to ensure efficient and effective completion of the process of restructuring and revitalization;

"5. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in the light of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute and increased participation in the training programmes;

"6. *Stresses* the need for better coordination among the main training and research institutions of the United Nations system, and, in this context, notes the survey prepared by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

"7. *Requests* the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in this regard, to prepare an assessment of the survey with a view to (a) highlighting the lessons learned from the responses already received, (b) providing a qualitative assessment of pedagogical methods followed by these institutions in the provision of their training services, and (c) highlighting the complementarities and synergies that were apparent in the survey;

"8. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, especially for developing countries, consistent with the division of labour;

"9. *Underlines* the need to further develop and expand the scope of these partnerships, particularly at the country level;

"10. *Requests* the Board of Trustees to attract, to the extent possible, experts from developing countries for the preparation of the relevant training materials for the programmes and activities of the Institute;

"11. *Calls on* the Secretary-General to continue to explore all possible ways and means to provide additional facilities to the Institute for maintaining its offices and for conducting programmes and training courses, which are provided at no cost to States, and to their representatives accredited to United Nations offices in New York and at Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Institute, as well as with the United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to explore ways and modalities to systematically utilize the Institute in the execution of training and capacity-building programmes;

"13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

10. At the 40th meeting, on 24 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Burak Özügergin (Turkey), introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations

Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/53/L.44), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.32.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.44 (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

12. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Japan and Australia (see A/C.2/53/SR.40).

13. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.44, draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.32 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

Welcoming the appointment of Mr. Hans van Ginkel as the fourth Rector of the United Nations University, by the Secretary-General in September 1997,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University,[9] the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations University,[10] the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University as transmitted by the Secretary-General[11] and the comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations University,[12]

Bearing in mind the need to ensure a coordinated system-wide approach to training and training-related research issues as well as to establish a coherent strategy for building on common fields of interest and complementarities between the various training and research institutions within the United Nations system,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions made to date by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector of the United Nations University in intensifying his interaction with United Nations Headquarters in the context of the development and implementation of a University-wide strategic plan which would help the University determine an overall strategic direction for the future, and, in this context, encouraging him to further enhance interdisciplinary research, as recommended in the comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[12]

---

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 31* (A/53/31).

[10] A/53/408.

[11] See A/53/392.

[12] See A/53/392/Add.1.

Noting also with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector in initiating a self-assessment of the University,

1. *Welcomes* the completion of the review of the United Nations University carried out by the Joint Inspection Unit and the internal assessment conducted by the Ad Hoc Committee of the University's governing Council and the comments of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the steps taken by the Council and the Rector of the United Nations University to promote the work and the visibility of the University, particularly among Member States, the United Nations and its agencies, through such measures as organizing a series of public forums for the purpose of disseminating the results of its research, and requests them to further intensify such efforts;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made by the University in contributing to the work of the United Nations, and requests the Council and the Rector to continue intensifying their efforts to improve the University's interaction and communication with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system and to continue their efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication of work within the system;

4. *Requests* the Council and the Rector to enhance further coordination and complementarity between the University's research and training centres and its programmes, keeping in mind the relevant recommendations of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Training institutions in the United Nations system: programmes and activities";[13]

5. *Recognizes* the importance of creating linkages, collaboration and cooperation with other research institutions and universities in developing countries to facilitate the exchange of experience and best practices so as to mainstream the perspective of developing countries in the activities of the University;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this connection, to continue his consideration of innovative measures to improve interaction and communication between the University and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to ensure that the work of the University is taken into account in all relevant activities of the system, taking into account General Assembly resolution 51/187 of 16 December 1996, so that the United Nations system may draw more extensively upon the work of the University, and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

7. *Welcomes* the intention of the University to strengthen its policy-analysis and capacity-building activities in conjunction with the continuation of fundamental research and reflection in the strategic plan now being developed by the University for 1999–2002;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the further participation of the University in the work of the United Nations, and also requests him, taking into account resolution 51/187, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on such further participation of the University in the activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary machinery, as well as through other existing structures and modalities for communication, interaction and synergy;

9. *Urges* the University, in its allocation of fellowships, to increase the number of researchers from developing countries, thereby enabling them to benefit from the knowledge, expertise and skills of the University and enhance capacity-building efforts in developing countries, particularly in educational and research institutions;

[13] See A/52/559.

10. *Requests* the Council and the Rector, taking into account resolution 51/187, to continue to make further efforts to ensure the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the activities of the University, as well as its financial transparency and accountability, to intensify efforts to augment its Endowment Fund and to find innovative ways to mobilize operating contributions and other programme and project support;

11. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University, including its research and training centres and programmes, and in particular to its Endowment Fund.

Draft resolution II

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/227 of 8 April 1993, 48/207 of 21 December 1993, 49/125 of 19 December 1994, 50/121 of 20 December 1995, 51/188 of 16 December 1996 and 52/206 of 18 December 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[14] and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the activities of the Institute,[15]

Welcoming the successful restructuring of the Institute and the recent progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

Noting the relevant recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in its report entitled "Training institutions in the United Nations system: programmes and activities",[16]

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Noting that contributions to the General Fund of the Institute have not increased along with the increased participation of the developed countries in the training programmes, and underlining the need to urgently address this discrepancy,

Reiterating that the funding of training programmes offered at the specific request of States or departments and units of the Organization and other organs of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies should be arranged by the requesting parties,

Recognizing that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training and underlines the need for the United Nations training and research institutions to avoid duplication in their work;

2. *Reaffirms also* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the

[14] A/53/534.

[15] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 14* (A/53/14).

[16] A/52/559.

training requirements of States, and the pertinence of research activities related to training undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

3. *Stresses* the need for the Institute to further strengthen its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

4. *Also stresses* the need for continuity in the management of the Institute in order to ensure efficient and effective completion of the process of restructuring and revitalization;

5. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

6. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to continue its efforts to address the discrepancy between the contributions to the General Fund of the Institute and participation in its programmes;

7. *Stresses* the need for enhanced coordination between the main training and research institutions of the United Nations system, based on an effective division of labour among these institutions;

8. *Notes* the survey prepared by the Institute of training institutes and training programmes within the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Institute, to prepare from within existing financial resources, an assessment of the survey with a view to highlighting the lessons learned from the responses already received, providing a qualitative assessment of pedagogical methods followed by these institutions in the provision of their training services and highlighting the complementarities and synergies that were apparent in the survey;

9. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, consistent with the division of labour;

10. *Underlines* the need to further develop and expand the scope of these partnerships, particularly at the country level;

11. *Requests* the Board of Trustees to attract, to the extent possible, experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the preparation of the relevant training materials for the programmes and activities of the Institute;

12. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to explore all possible ways and means to provide additional facilities to the Institute for maintaining its offices and for conducting programmes and training courses that are provided at no cost to States and to their representatives accredited to United Nations offices in New York and at Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Institute, as well as with the United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to explore ways and modalities to systematically utilize the Institute in the execution of training and capacity-building programmes;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

United Nations A/53/612

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 November 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 97

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Uladzimir **Gerus** (Belarus)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 26th, 29th, 39th and 40th meetings, on 28 and 30 October and 16 and 24 November 1998. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/53/SR.26, 29, 39 and 40). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 7th meetings, on 6, 8 and 9 October (see A/C.2/53/SR.3–7).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/53/163–E/1998/79);

(b) Letter dated 8 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the twenty-fifth session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Doha from 15 to 17 March 1998 (A/53/95–S/1998/311).

98-37332 (E) 301198

4. At the 26th meeting, on 28 October, an introductory statement was made by the Chief of the Regional Commissions New York Office (see A/C.2/53/SR.26).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.22

5. At the 29th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of *Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mauritania, Qatar, Saudi Arabia,* the *Sudan,* the *United Arab Emirates, Yemen* and *Palestine*, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources" (A/C.2/53/L.22). Subsequently, *Bahrain, Malta, Morocco, Oman* and *Tunisia* joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 39th meeting, on 16 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Burak Özügergin (Turkey), informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution (see A/C.2/53/SR.39).

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America requested a recorded vote on the draft resolution.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made in explanation of vote before the vote by the representatives of Israel, the United States of America and the Syrian Arab Republic (see A/C.2/53/SR.39).

9. Also at its 39th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.22 by a recorded vote of 116 to 2, with 8 abstentions (see para. 11). The voting was as follows:[1]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

[1] The delegations of Guyana, India, Lebanon and Suriname subsequently indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour.

Abstaining:

Bahamas, El Salvador, Georgia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Panama, Paraguay, Swaziland.

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Bulgaria and Japan (see A/C.2/53/SR.39).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/207 of 18 December 1997 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/32 of 29 July 1998,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949[2] to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Expressing its concern at the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Aware of the additional, detrimental economic and social impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources,

Expressing its concern at the difficulties facing the Middle East peace process which started at Madrid on 30 October 1991 and which is based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and the principle of land for peace,

1. *Takes note* of the report transmitted by the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land and water;

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[3] A/53/163–E/1998/79, annex.

3. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, to cause loss or depletion of or to endanger the natural resources in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;

4. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, loss or depletion of, or danger to, their natural resources, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with in the framework of the final status negotiation between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources".

United Nations A/53/613

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 December 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 98

Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Uladzimir **Gerus** (Belarus)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 31st to 33rd, 36th and 42nd meetings, on 2, 3 and 10 November and on 1 December 1998. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/53/SR.31–33, 36 and 42). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 7th meetings, on 6, 8 and 9 October (see A/C.2/53/SR.3–7).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty (A/53/223 and Add.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006) (A/53/329);

(c) Letter dated 23 February 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the eighth session of the Islamic Summit Conference, held at Tehran from 9 to 11 December 1997 (A/53/72–S/1998/156);

(d) Letter dated 8 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of

98-38408 (E) 091298

the twenty-fifth session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Doha from 15 to 17 March 1998 (A/53/95–S/1998/311);

(e) Letter dated 29 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 and China, adopted at the 22nd meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 1998 (A/53/466);

(f) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the text of the statement made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to the Second Committee in introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty (A/C.2/53/7).

4. At the 31st meeting, on 2 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/53/SR.31).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/53/L.18

5. By its resolution 1998/28 of 29 July 1998, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "International Year of Microcredit 2005" (see A/C.2/53/L.18).

6. At the 36th meeting, on 10 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, David Prendergast (Jamaica), informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

7. The Secretary of the Committee made a statement (see A/C.2/53/SR.36).

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/53/L.18 without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.27 and A/C.2/53/L.48

9. At the 36th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of *Indonesia*, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and *China*, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty" (A/C.2/53/L.27), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 50/107 of 20 December 1995 and 52/193 and 52/194 of 18 December 1997 related to the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty and to the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty, and all its other relevant resolutions relating to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

"*Recalling also* the declarations and programmes of action of the United Nations major conferences and summits in the 1990s as they relate to poverty eradication,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the United Nations Development Programme on overcoming human poverty,

"*Expressing its concern* that the number of people living in poverty is still increasing, especially in developing countries, and that a large majority of them are women and children,

"*Recognizing* that in the process of globalization, the marginalization of many developing countries and of disadvantaged groups of people have created constraints to the efforts to eradicate poverty,

"*Expressing also its concern* that financial and economic turmoil has aggravated the existing poverty and put a large number of people back to conditions of poverty in developing countries,

"*Noting* the decisions, measures and activities undertaken to eradicate poverty by countries and by organizations, agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including the World Bank, as well as by all sectors of societies within the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

"1. *Reiterates* that the main objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty and reducing overall poverty substantially in the world through decisive national actions and international cooperation;

"2. *Calls for* strengthened efforts at all levels to implement fully and effectively the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and all agreements and commitments agreed upon at the United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990 as they relate to poverty eradication, with a view to achieving the objectives of the Decade as early as possible;

"3. *Stresses* the importance of tackling the root causes of poverty and the necessity to meet the basic needs of all, and, in this context, emphasizes the fundamental role of economic growth with equity in the eradication of poverty;

"4. *Recognizes* that the process of globalization brings with it new challenges, particularly for the developing countries and the least developed among them in their efforts to eradicate poverty;

"5. *Calls for* concrete and concerted actions by the international community to create an enabling economic environment to assist developing countries to combat the negative impacts of globalization and marginalization and to reactivate the development process;

"6. *Welcomes* the formulation and implementation of national plans and strategies for poverty eradication, including setting time-bound goals and targets for the substantial reduction of overall poverty and the eradication of absolute poverty, based on specific national development strategies, and encourages their continuous implementation, as well as the exchanges of experiences gained in this regard;

"7. *Urges* the developed countries that have not yet done so to achieve as soon as possible the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of the gross national product for the least developed countries;

[1] A/53/329.

"8. *Calls upon* the international community, including multilateral financial institutions, to implement fully and effectively all initiatives taken regarding debt relief for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and thus support their efforts to eradicate poverty;

"9. *Recognizes* the role of microcredit as an essential anti-poverty tool, resulting in the generation of productive self-employment and empowerment, especially of women, by providing access to small amounts of capital, encourages Governments to adopt policies that support the development of microcredit institutions and their capacities and calls on the international community, in particular the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system as well as the World Bank and other international financial institutions to support and incorporate, as appropriate, microcredit and related services in their programmes for the eradication of poverty;

"10. *Welcomes* the initiative taken by the Economic and Social Council to strengthen coordination for the integrated implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the 1990s, where poverty eradication had been a cross-cutting theme;

"11. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made within the United Nations system to enhance inter-agency coordination among relevant organizations, funds and programmes, and the Bretton Woods institutions, for the integrated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the adoption of the Statement of Commitment on Coordination for Action to Eradicate Poverty by the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and encourages these agencies to take more effective action in support of Member States in their efforts to achieve the objectives of the Decade;

"12. *Reiterates* its call to all donors to give high priority to the eradication of poverty in their development assistance programmes, on both bilateral and multilateral bases, and invites the relevant funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to support developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty, by supporting national efforts to formulate, coordinate, implement, monitor and assess integrated poverty strategies;

"13. *Decides* that the themes for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty for 1999 and 2000 shall be 'Globalization and poverty eradication' and 'Women's role in poverty eradication', respectively;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fourth session on the progress made in the implementation of measures, recommendations and activities related to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, including recommendations for possible actions and initiatives towards the new millennium;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled 'Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)'."

10. At the 42nd meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, David Prendergast (Jamaica), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty" (A/C.2/53/L.48), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.27.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.48 without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.48, draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.27 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft decision

13. At its 42nd meeting, on 1 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty (A/53/223) (see para. 15).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

International Year of Microcredit, 2005

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/194 of 18 December 1997 on the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that microcredit programmes have successfully contributed to lifting people out of poverty in many countries around the world,

Bearing in mind that microcredit programmes have especially benefited women and have resulted in the achievement of their empowerment,

Recognizing that microcredit programmes, in addition to their role in the eradication of poverty, have also been a factor contributing to the social and human development process,

Bearing in mind the importance of microfinance instruments such as credit, savings and related business services in providing access to capital for people living in poverty,

Noting the support to microcredit in the outcomes of different summit and high-level meetings, including the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi on 7 and 8 April 1997,[2] the Ninth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, held at Male from 12 to 14 May 1997,[3] the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-third ordinary session, held at Harare from 2 to 4 June 1997,[4] the statement on economic and financial issues of the Group of Seven, issued at Denver, United States of America, on 21 June 1997, the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council, held at Geneva from 30 June to 25 July 1997, the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting,

[2] See A/51/912–S/1997/406, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1997*, document S/1997/406.

[3] See A/52/222, annex.

[4] See A/52/465, annex II.

held at Edinburgh from 24 to 27 October 1997 and the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena, from 18 to 20 May 1998,[5]

Noting also that 2005 is the final year of the campaign of the Microcredit Summit, which was held in Washington, D. C., from 2 to 4 February 1997 and which, through its Declaration and Plan of Action,[6] endorsed a global campaign to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, with credit for self-employment and other financial and business services, by that year,

Noting further that the international community is observing the period 1997–2006 as the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

1. *Proclaims* the year 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit;

2. *Requests* that the observance of the Year be a special occasion for giving impetus to microcredit programmes throughout the world;

3. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system, all concerned non-governmental organizations, other actors of civil society, the private sector and the media to highlight and give enhanced recognition to the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty, its contribution to social development and its positive impact on the lives of people living in poverty;

4. *Invites* all involved in the eradication of poverty to consider taking additional steps, including the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, so that credit and related services for self-employment and income-generating activities may be made available to an increasing number of people living in poverty, and to further develop, where appropriate, other microfinance instruments;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-eighth session a report containing a draft programme of action for the effective observance of the Year, in consultation with all relevant actors including United Nations bodies, under an item entitled "First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty" to be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

Draft resolution II

Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/107 of 20 December 1995 and 52/193 and 52/194 of 18 December 1997 relating to the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006), and all of its other relevant resolutions relating to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in the developing countries,

Recalling also the declarations and programmes of action of the United Nations major conferences and summit conferences in the 1990s as they relate to the eradication of poverty,

[5] A/52/970–S/1998/574.

[6] A/52/113, annex I.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)[7] and the report of the United Nations Development Programme, *Overcoming Human Poverty*,[8]

Expressing its concern that the total number of people living in poverty is still increasing, especially in developing countries, and that a large majority of them are women and children,

Recognizing that while the rates of poverty in some countries have been reduced, some developing countries and disadvantaged groups are being marginalized while others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

Expressing its concern that the financial crisis has aggravated the existing poverty in the countries affected and placed a large number of people once again in conditions of poverty in the developing countries affected either directly or indirectly by the crisis,

Recognizing that while it is the primary responsibility of States to attain social development, the international community should support the efforts of the developing countries in eradicating poverty and ensuring basic social protection,

Noting the decisions, measures and actions taken to eradicate poverty by countries and by organizations, agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including the World Bank, as well as by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, within the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

1. *Reiterates* that the main objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty and reducing overall poverty substantially in the world through decisive national action and international cooperation;

2. *Calls* for strengthened efforts at all levels to implement fully and effectively the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and all agreements and commitments agreed upon at United Nations major conferences and summit conferences organized since 1990 as they relate to the eradication of poverty, with a view to achieving the objectives of the Decade as early as possible;

3. *Reaffirms* that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty, and the national and international framework conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication by fostering, *inter alia*, social and economic integration of people living in poverty, thus empowering them to participate in decision-making on policies that affect them, the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, and an efficient, transparent and accountable public service and administration;

4. *Reaffirms also* that the causes of poverty should be addressed in the context of sectoral strategies, such as those on environment, food security, population, migration, health, shelter and human resources development, including education, fresh water, rural development and productive employment, and of the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living

[7] A/53/329.

[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.III.B.2.

in poverty and enable them to build their strength and assets so as to achieve social and economic integration;

5. *Stresses* the importance of tackling the root causes of poverty and the necessity of meeting the basic needs of all and, in this context, emphasizes the fundamental role in the eradication of poverty of economic growth that favours the poor and creates employment and promotes equitable income distribution;

6. *Recognizes* that the process of globalization brings with it opportunities but also poses new challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them in their efforts to eradicate poverty;

7. *Recognizes also* the importance of appropriate policy responses to the challenges of globalization at the national level, in particular by pursuing sound and stable domestic policies, including, *inter alia*, sound macroeconomic and social policies, so as to realize the objective of the eradication of poverty;

8. *Calls* for continued action by the international community to create an enabling economic environment and to further assist developing countries in their efforts to combat the negative impact of globalization, fight marginalization and pursue their development;

9. *Reaffirms* that all Governments and the United Nations system, in particular the relevant funds, programmes and agencies, should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective and use gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into the planning and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes on the eradication of poverty;

10. *Emphasizes* that, in developing countries, rural development remains central to efforts to eradicate poverty, and that this often includes agrarian reform, investment in infrastructure, extension of rural financial intermediation, measures to ensure food security, the provision of better education, greater utilization of appropriate technology, fair prices to provide incentives for agricultural investment and increased productivity, including productivity in the informal sector;

11. *Emphasizes also* that in all countries urban poverty should be addressed, *inter alia*, by promoting sustainable livelihoods for people living in urban poverty through the provision or expansion of access to training, education and other employment assistance services, in particular for women, youth, the unemployed and the underemployed;

12. *Welcomes* the fact that a considerable number of countries have formulated plans and programmes to fight poverty and, in this context, notes the efforts made to achieve the target of reducing by one half, by 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, and invites all Governments that have not yet done so to formulate or strengthen integrated poverty eradication policies and implement national poverty eradication plans or programmes, in a participatory manner, in order to address the structural cause of poverty, encompassing action at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, and stresses that those plans or programmes should establish, taking into account specific national circumstances, strategies, including affordable time-bound goals and targets, for the substantial reduction of overall poverty and the eradication of absolute poverty;

13. *Calls upon* the developed countries to strengthen their efforts to achieve, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for the least developed countries;

14. *Calls upon* the international community, including multilateral financial institutions, to implement fully and effectively all initiatives taken regarding debt relief for

developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and thus support their efforts to eradicate poverty;

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of increasing the control of the poor over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections;

16. *Emphasizes also* the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes the generation of productive self-employment and empowers people living in poverty, especially women, and therefore encourages Governments to adopt policies that support the development of microcredit institutions and their capacities, and calls upon the international community, in particular the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and international and regional financial institutions involved in the eradication of poverty, to support and explore the incorporation of the microcredit approach in their programmes and the further development, as appropriate, of other microfinance instruments;

17. *Welcomes* the initiative taken by the Economic and Social Council to strengthen coordination for an integrated implementation of the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summit conferences in the 1990s, where the eradication of poverty had been a cross-cutting theme;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made within the United Nations system to enhance inter-agency coordination among relevant organizations, funds and programmes and the Bretton Woods institutions for the integrated follow-up to the United Nations major conferences and summit conferences, including the adoption by the Administrative Committee on Coordination of the statement of commitment on coordination for action to eradicate poverty, and encourages those agencies to take more effective action in support of Member States in their efforts to achieve the objectives of the Decade;

19. *Reiterates its call* to all donors to give high priority to the eradication of poverty in their development assistance programmes, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, and invites the relevant funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to support developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the overall goal of eradicating absolute poverty, reduce substantially overall poverty and ensure basic social services, by supporting national efforts to formulate, coordinate, implement, monitor and assess integrated poverty strategies, including capacity-building, and by supporting efforts to empower people living in poverty;

20. *Notes with appreciation* all initiatives aimed at or contributing to the eradication of poverty that have been undertaken by countries and international organizations, and encourages continuous action and further cooperation among the various initiatives;

21. *Reaffirms* the importance of agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes, and welcomes the efforts made to implement the 20/20 initiative,[9] which emphasizes that promoting access for all to basic social services is essential for sustainable and equitable development and is an integral part of the strategy for the eradication of poverty;

[9] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I.

22. *Decides* that the themes for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in 1999 and 2000 shall be, respectively, "Women and the eradication of poverty" and "Globalization and the eradication of poverty";

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fourth session on the progress made in the implementation of measures, recommendations and activities related to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, including recommendations for possible action and initiatives towards the new millennium and proposals for better coordination of action taken by the United Nations system;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)".

* * *

15. The Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty.[10]

---

[10] A/53/223.

United Nations A/53/614

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 December 1998
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Hassan Kassem **Najem** (Lebanon)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

2. At the same meeting, the General Assembly decided to allocate to the Third Committee chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council[1] that were to be considered under the relevant items of the agenda (see A/C.3/53/1).

3. The Third Committee considered the item at its 53rd meeting, on 23 November 1998. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the summary record of the meeting (A/C.3/53/SR.53).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1998.[1]

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Organization of work of the Third Committee and draft biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1999–2000

5. At the 53rd meeting, on 23 November, the representative of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services introduced and orally revised the note by the

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3).

98-37935 (E) 041298

Secretariat (A/C.3/53/L.64) entitled "Organization of work of the Third Committee and draft biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1999–2000" (see A/C.3/53/SR.53).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee approved its organization of work and draft biennial programme of work for 1999–2000, as orally revised (see para. 8, draft decision I).

B. Report of the Economic and Social Council

7. At its 53rd meeting, on 23 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council (see para. 8, draft decision II).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Organization of work of the Third Committee and biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1999–2000

The General Assembly, pursuant to its resolutions 45/175 of 18 December 1990, 46/140 of 17 December 1991 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, approves the organization of work of the Third Committee and the biennial programme of work of the Committee for 1999–2000, as contained in annexes I and II to the present decision.

Annex I

Organization of work of the Third Committee

A. Guidelines concerning time limits of statements

1. In accordance with rule 106 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and paragraph 22 of decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly, at the beginning of each session, the Chairman of the Third Committee should propose to the Committee the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers.

2. Further to General Assembly resolutions 45/175 of 18 December 1990 and 46/140 of 17 December 1991, on the rationalization of the work of the Third Committee, statements made by delegations and by Secretariat officials, unless decided otherwise by the Committee at the beginning of the session, should not exceed seven minutes. Statements made on behalf of a group of delegations or made in connection with the sub-items under the agenda item on human rights questions should not exceed fifteen minutes. These time limits will be applied with a degree of flexibility towards all speakers. With a view to saving time, all speakers are encouraged to exercise self-discipline, in particular delegations associated with group statements. For practical reasons, group statements are encouraged for the first day of the discussion of an item or sub-item. In this connection, it is important to emphasize the timely distribution of documentation in accordance with the rules of procedure of the

Assembly, in order to enable delegations to inscribe themselves on the list of speakers at an early stage.

B. Draft resolutions on reports of treaty bodies and reports of the Secretary-General on the status of the treaties

3. Reports of all treaty bodies will be submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with their respective legislative mandates. Substantive resolutions on those reports should be adopted biennially, in accordance with the programme of work of the Third Committee. Where possible, it is recommended that draft resolutions on the status of the treaties should not be submitted separately but should be incorporated in the draft resolution relating to the report of the treaty body. In alternate years, the Committee should simply take note of the reports unless more substantive action is deemed appropriate.

C. Proposals emanating from subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council

4. The Economic and Social Council, in transmitting proposals to the General Assembly should, to the extent possible, bear in mind the programme of work of the Third Committee.

D. Programme of work

5. An informal meeting of the Third Committee should be held immediately after the election of the members of its Bureau in order to consider the programme of work of the Committee based on a draft to be prepared by the Secretariat and to consider other organizational aspects relating to the Committee's work, especially the status of documentation.

6. The items allocated to the Third Committee for consideration during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly should be taken up in the following order:

Item 2. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;

Item 3. Crime prevention and criminal justice;

Item 4. International drug control;

Item 5. Advancement of women;

Item 6. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

Item 7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions;

Item 8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children;

Item 9. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;

Item 10. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination;[a]

Item 11. Right of peoples to self-determination;[a]

[a] Items 10 and 11 are to be discussed jointly. Delegates may make two separate statements, that is, one on each item, if they so wish.

Item 12. Human rights questions:[b] [c]

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

(e) Report of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights;

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council.

7. This arrangement may be reviewed at the organizational meeting of the Third Committee, in particular, in the light of the status of documentation at that time.

E. Preparation and submission of draft resolutions

8. In drawing up draft resolutions, delegations are requested to adhere to the programme of work of the Third Committee as reproduced below.

9. Delegations are invited to take into account the general guidelines agreed upon in Assembly resolutions 45/175 and 46/140 regarding the submission of draft proposals and as set out below.[d]

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

Questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

Item 2. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Annual

World social situation

Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, International Year of Older Persons and related activities (1999)

Biennial

Implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Long-term Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond (odd years)

[b] Sub-items (a) and (d) are to be discussed separately; sub-items (b), (c) and (e) are to be discussed jointly.

[c] Delegations may make one statement each under sub-items (a) and (d) and two statements under sub-items (b), (c) and (e), but should not make two statements on any one sub-item.

[d] References to "odd" and "even" years refer to calendar years.

Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (odd years)

Cooperation to achieve education for all (odd years)

Triennial

Role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends (1999)

Quinquennial

Review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (2002)

Item 3. Crime prevention and criminal justice

Annual

Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity

United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime (1999)

Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (1999)

Biennial

Crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women (1999)

Quinquennial

United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (2000)

Item 4. International drug control

Annual

Implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; international cooperation to counter the world drug problem; respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking; United Nations International Drug Control Programme; measures to strengthen international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related matters; implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

Biennial

Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (even years)

Update of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (even years)

Item 5. Advancement of women

Annual

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls (1999)

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1999)

United Nations Development Fund for Women

Biennial

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (odd years)

Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (odd years)

Violence against women migrant workers (odd years)

Traffic in women and girls (2000)

Item 6. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Annual

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Item 7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Annual

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States

Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

Biennial

New international humanitarian order (even years)

Quinquennial

Extension of the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2002)

Item 8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Annual

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; children with disabilities; prevention and eradication of the sale of children, and of their sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and child pornography; protection of

children affected by armed conflict; refugee and internally displaced children; elimination of the exploitation of child labour; the plight of children living and/or working on the streets; the girl child

Biennial

Convention on the Rights of the Child (even)

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (even)

Item 9. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Annual

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

Item 10. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Annual

Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

Preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (to 2000)

Biennial

Financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2000)

Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (even years)

Item 11. Right of peoples to self-determination

Annual

Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights

Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (to be considered biennially after the entry into force of the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries)

Item 12. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Annual

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (to be considered biennially after the entry into force of the Convention)

Report of the Committee against Torture

Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1999)

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (1999)

Biennial

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (2000)

Status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (even years)

International Covenants on Human Rights (odd years)

Reports of meetings of persons chairing United Nations human rights treaty bodies (even years)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Annual

Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Right to development

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

Strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights

Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

Biennial

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (even years)

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (even years)

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (even years)

Human rights and terrorism (odd years)

National institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (odd years)

Human rights and extreme poverty (even years)

Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (odd years)

Human rights and mass exoduses (odd years)

Human rights in the administration of justice (odd years)

Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes (odd years)

Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections (odd years)

Human rights and scientific and technological progress (odd years)

Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons (odd years)

Strengthening of the rule of law (2000)

Quinquennial

Award of human rights prizes (2003)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Annual

Implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Annual

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Annex II

Biennial programme of work of the Third Committee for 1999–2000

1999[e]

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

Documentation

Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council on questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

[e] The programme of work and documentation for 1999 will be revised in the light of the relevant decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council in 1999.

Item 2. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends (General Assembly resolution 51/58)[f]

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 52/82 on the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[f]

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (resolution 52/83)[f]

Report of the Secretary-General and of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on ways and means for achieving the goal of education for all (resolution 52/84)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8–12 August 1998) (Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/55)[f]

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the draft resolution on the International Year of Older Persons, 1999 (see A/53/615, para. 7)

Item 3. Crime prevention and criminal justice

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council, including relevant information on preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/53/616, para. 18, draft resolution I)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/86 on crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence against women[g]

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/53/616, para. 18, draft resolution IV)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity (A/53/616, para. 18, draft resolution V)

Item 4. International drug control

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (General Assembly resolution 47/100)

[f] To be submitted to the General Assembly through the Commission for Social Development.

[g] Submitted to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and of the draft resolution on international cooperation against the world drug problem (see A/53/617, para. 7)

Item 5. Advancement of women

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180)[8]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (resolution 39/125)

World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (resolutions 40/204 and 49/161)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (resolution 45/124 and A/53/618, para. 18, draft resolution III)

Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (resolution 52/93)

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (resolution 52/95)

Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (resolution 52/97)

Report of the Secretary-General on traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls (A/53/618, para. 18, draft resolution II)

Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (A/53/618, para. 18, draft resolution IV)

Item 6. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (General Assembly resolution 50/203 and A/53/619, para. 10)[8]

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/53/619, para. 10)

Item 7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees[8]

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors (A/53/620, para. 22, draft resolution II)

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States (A/53/620, para. 22, draft resolution III)

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/53/620, para. 22, draft resolution VI)

Item 8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict (General Assembly resolution 52/107 and draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.14/Rev.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.14/Rev.1)

Item 9. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (General Assembly resolution 52/108 and A/53/622, para. 10, draft resolution I)

Item 10. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (resolution 3380 (XXX))

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Intolerance, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (A/53/623, para. 17, draft resolution II)

Report of the Secretary-General containing proposals to supplement the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/53/623, para. 17, draft resolution II)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/53/623, para. 17, draft resolution III)

Item 11. Right of peoples to self-determination

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/624, para. 14, draft resolution I)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/53/624, para. 14, draft resolution II)

Item 12. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Human Rights Committee (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI))[8]

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (resolution 260 A (III))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 36/151 and draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.23)

Report of the Committee against Torture (resolution 39/46, annex)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights (resolution 52/116)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.21)

Report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.23)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (General Assembly resolution 52/123)

Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (resolution 52/128)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization (resolution 52/129)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (resolution 52/132)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism (resolution 52/133)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.32)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.33)

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.39)

Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.44)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Plan of Action of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995–2004, and on public information activities in the field of human rights (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.50)

Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.58/Rev.1)

Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes (resolution 52/119)

Human rights in the administration of justice (resolution 52/124)

Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons (resolution 52/130)

Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.36)

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.57)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.59)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Kosovo (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.61)

Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Situation of human rights in Rwanda (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.29/Rev.1)

Situation of human rights in Iraq (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.34)

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.38)

Situation of human rights in Haiti (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.43)

Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.47)

Situation of human rights in Nigeria (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.51)

Situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.60)

Question of human rights in Afghanistan (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.63)

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 48/121)

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Documentation

Report of the High Commissioner (General Assembly resolution 48/141)[g]

Question for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Question of resources for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the human rights activities of the United Nations (A/53/625/Add.5, para. 10, draft resolution)

2000

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council

Matters calling for action by the General Assembly (Third Committee) or brought to its attention

Documentation

Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council on questions that do not fall within the purview of the other items on the agenda of the General Assembly allocated to the Third Committee

Item 2. Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation (General Assembly resolution 44/56)

Item 3. Crime prevention and criminal justice

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Item 4. International drug control

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (General Assembly resolution 47/100)

Report of the Secretary-General containing the biennial update of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (resolution 48/112, sect. IV)[g]

Item 5. Advancement of women

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180)[g]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (resolution 39/125)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (resolution 45/124)

Report of the Secretary-General on traffic in women and girls (A/53/618, para. 18, draft resolution I)

Item 6. Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (General Assembly resolution 50/203 and draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.27)[g]

Item 7. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Report of the Secretary-General on a new international humanitarian order (A/53/620, para. 22, draft resolution IV)

Item 8. Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex)[g]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict (resolution 52/107)

Item 9. Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (General Assembly decision 49/458)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (resolution 52/108)

Item 10. Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/53/623, para. 17, draft resolution I)

Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/53/623, para. 17, draft resolution I)

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Intolerance, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (A/53/623, para. 17, draft resolution II)

Item 11. Right of peoples to self-determination

Item 12. Human rights questions

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Human Rights Committee (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI))[8]

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (resolution 260 A (III))

Report of the Committee against Torture (resolution 39/46, annex)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.22/Rev.1

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the meetings of persons chairing United Nations human rights treaty bodies (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.22/Rev.1)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the rule of law (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.35)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.41)

Report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.42)

Report of the Secretary-General on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.46)

Questions for consideration for which no advance documentation has been requested

Human rights and extreme poverty (draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.40)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (resolution 48/121)

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Documentation

Report of the High Commissioner (resolution 48/141)[8]

* * *

Draft decision II

Report of the Economic and Social Council

The General Assembly takes note of chapters I, III, V, VI, VIII (sections A, C and I) and X of the report of the Economic and Social Council.[2]

---

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3).